

House Bill 1483

By: Representatives Barton of the 5th, Hatchett of the 150th, Cooper of the 43rd, Hutchinson of the 107th, Dempsey of the 13th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 10A of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to licensing provisions regarding professional counselors, social workers, and
3 marriage and family therapists, so as to provide for licensure by endorsement in social work;
4 to authorize applicants for a license in social work enrolled in a master's degree program to
5 take the master's social work licensing examination in their final semester of the program;
6 to revise the supervised experience requirements for licensure as a clinical social worker; to
7 require the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and
8 Marriage and Family Therapists to review and revise its rules and regulations relating to
9 licensed master's social workers and licensed clinical social workers; to provide for automatic
10 repeal; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

12 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

13 Article 1 of Chapter 10A of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
14 licensing provisions regarding professional counselors, social workers, and marriage and
15 family therapists, is amended by revising Code Section 43-10A-8, relating to eligibility for
16 licensure, as follows:

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17 "43-10A-8.

18 No person shall be eligible for licensure under this article unless such person furnishes
19 satisfactory evidence to the board of all of the following:

20 (1) Having met the education, training, and experience requirements of Code Section
21 43-10A-11, 43-10A-12, or 43-10A-13 regarding that specialty for which a license is
22 sought or, for licensure by endorsement in social work, having met the requirements of
23 subsection (b) of Code Section 43-10A-10;

24 (2) Having successfully passed the examination established for that specialty under Code
25 Section 43-10A-9, ~~except; provided, however,~~ that persons meeting the requirements of
26 subparagraph (a)(2)(A) of Code Section 43-10A-13 or of subsection (b) of Code Section
27 43-10A-10 shall not be required to pass such examination;

28 (3) Having paid any required license fee;

29 (4) Having furnished at least two personal references from supervisors, teachers, or any
30 combination thereof; provided, however, that this paragraph shall not apply to persons
31 meeting the requirements of subsection (b) of Code Section 43-10A-10; and

32 (5) Having satisfactory results from a fingerprint record check report conducted by the
33 Georgia Crime Information Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as
34 determined by the board. Application for the issuance of a license under this Code
35 section shall constitute express consent and authorization for the board to perform a
36 criminal background check. Each applicant who submits an application to the board for
37 licensure agrees to provide the board with any and all information necessary to run a
38 criminal background check, including, but not limited to, classifiable sets of fingerprints.
39 Any such applicant shall be responsible for all fees associated with the performance of
40 such background check."

41 **SECTION 2.**

42 Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 43-10A-9, relating to examination,
43 as follows:

44 "43-10A-9.

45 (a) The board shall provide for the conduct of examinations for licensure in each specialty
46 at least twice a year. Examinations may be written, oral, experiential, or any combination
47 thereof and shall deal with such theoretical and applied fields as prescribed by the board.
48 The examinee's name shall not be disclosed to any person grading the examination until
49 that grading is complete.

50 (b) An applicant for a license in social work enrolled in a master's degree in social work
51 program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education may sit for the master's
52 social work licensing examination in such applicant's final semester of the program. The
53 board may adopt rules and regulations to administer the provisions of this subsection."

54 **SECTION 3.**

55 Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 43-10A-10, relating to licensure
56 without examination, as follows:

57 "43-10A-10.

58 (a) The board may issue a license without examination to any applicant licensed in a
59 specialty under the laws of another jurisdiction having requirements for licensure in that
60 specialty which are substantially equal to the licensure requirements for that specialty in
61 this state.

62 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this Code section, the board shall issue a license by
63 endorsement in social work to an applicant who holds an unrestricted license in social work
64 in another jurisdiction, state, or territory of the United States which requires standards for
65 licensure considered by the board to be equivalent to the requirements for licensure under
66 this article, so long as the applicant meets the applicable requirements of Code Section

67 43-10A-8. The board may establish by rule procedures for an applicant for licensure by
68 endorsement in social work to supplement his or her application to satisfy any standards
69 for licensure pursuant to this article that are greater than those of the jurisdiction, state, or
70 territory in which such applicant holds a license."

71 **SECTION 4.**

72 Said article is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 43-10A-12,
73 relating to requirements for licensure in social work and authorized services, as follows:

74 "(a) The education, experience, and training requirements for licensure in social work are
75 as follows:

76 (1) For licensure as a master's social worker, a master's degree in social work from a
77 program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education; and

78 (2) For licensure as a clinical social worker:

79 (A) A master's degree in social work from a program accredited by the Council on
80 Social Work Education; and

81 (B) As defined by the board, ~~three years' full-time~~ 2,000 hours of supervised
82 experience in the practice of social work following granting of the master's degree. Of
83 the ~~three years~~ 2,000 hours of supervised experience, only the first ~~two~~ 1,000 hours
84 must be under direction. A doctoral degree in a specialty, an allied profession, or child
85 and family development may substitute for ~~one year~~ 1,000 hours of such experience.
86 At least ~~one year~~ 1,000 hours of experience shall have occurred within two years
87 immediately preceding application for licensure as a clinical social worker or the
88 applicant shall have met the continuing education requirement established by the board
89 for clinical social work during the year immediately preceding application."

90 **SECTION 5.**

91 Said article is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

92 "43-10A-24.

93 (a) No later than December 31, 2022, the board shall review and revise its rules and
94 regulations relating to licensure as a master's social worker, licensure as a clinical social
95 worker, and continuing education requirements to maintain licensure as a master's social
96 worker or clinical social worker. Such revised rules and regulations shall be streamlined
97 and updated to ensure clarity and understanding by the public, applicants, and licensees.
98 The board may seek input and comments from pertinent state or national professional or
99 trade associations or groups.

100 (b) This Code section shall stand repealed by operation of law on December 31, 2022."

101

SECTION 6.

102 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.